

A manipulative toy is provided comprising a body and a plurality of interchangeable appendages, such as arms, legs, heads, tails and wings, [said appendages being] removably attachable to the body at certain predefined coupling points using [by means of] complementary magnetic elements disposed within both [said] the appendages and [said] the body. [Said] The appendages are retained in place by [means of] the interaction between two sets of complementary ribbed elements disposed on both the body and the appendages about [said] the magnetic elements, which complementary ribbed elements are formed in a beveled configuration. The configuration of these ribbed elements, in combination with attractive force of the complementary magnetic elements and the frictional engagement of the complementary ribs, limits the appendages from moving rotationally about the point of attachment, and limits the movement of the appendage in the plane of the point of attachment, thereby allowing the manipulative toy to be posed by a user and retain its position.

IN THE CLAIMS

Rewrite claim 1 as follows:

1. (AMENDED) A manipulative toy configured in the shape of an animal having a head, tail, arms, legs or wings comprising:

a body configured in the shape of said animal, said body having a front, back and sides and further having [at least one planar] a plurality of planar surfaces [surface] disposed on the sides thereof [thereon], said planar surfaces being recessed below the surface of said body and bounded on the upper portion thereof by an arcuate ridge, wherein the location of said planar surfaces on the sides of said body corresponds to the location of the arms, legs or wings of said

animal, and further including a planar surface at the front of said body, said planar surface corresponding in location to the head of said animal, and further including a planar surface at the back of said body, said planar surface corresponding in location to the tail of said animal;

a plurality of appendages each [at least one appendage] having at least one planar surface disposed at [the] an end thereof, said planar surface on said appendage corresponding to said planar surface on said body, said appendages being configured in the shape of the head, tail, legs or wings of said animal;

means disposed on both said body and said at least one appendage for removably attaching said appendage to said body at said respective planar surfaces, wherein said ridge serves to conceal the attachment of said appendages to said body and to limit the motion of said appendage attached to said body; and

means for limiting [the] rotational and linear movement of said appendage relative to said body.

Rewrite claim 2 as follows:

2. (AMENDED) The manipulative toy of claim 1, wherein said means for removably attaching said appendage to said body comprises a pair of complementary magnetic elements, said complementary [magnet] magnetic elements being disposed within said planar surfaces of said body and said appendage.

In claim 4, line 1, delete “1” and insert –3–.

In claim 6, line 1, delete “ribs” and insert –ribbed elements–.

In claim 7, line 2, delete “ribs” and insert –ribbed elements–.

In claim 8, line 1, delete “1” and insert –7–.

In claim 10, line 5, delete “of” and insert –on–.

In claim 10, line 7, delete “ribs” and insert –ribbed elements–.

Rewrite claim 11 as follows:

11. (AMENDED) The manipulative toy of claim 1, wherein said [planar surface on said body is recessed below the surface of said body, said recess being bounded on the upper portion thereof by a] ridge is configured so as to resemble a shoulder of said animal such that attachment of said leg or wing to said appendage is lifelike in appearance.

Cancel claim 12 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Rewrite claim 15 as follows:

15. (AMENDED) A manipulative toy comprising:
a body configured in the shape of an animal, said body having [at least one planar]
a plurality of planar surfaces [surface] disposed on the sides thereof [thereon], said planar

surfaces being recessed below the surface of said body and bounded on the upper portion thereof by an arcuate ridge, wherein the location of said planar surfaces on the sides of said body corresponds to the location of the arms, legs or wings of said animal, and further including a planar surface at the front of said body, said planar surface corresponding in location to the head of said animal, and further including a planar surface at the back of said body, said planar surface corresponding in location to the tail of said animal;

a plurality of appendages each [at least one appendage] having at least one roughly circular planar surface disposed at the end thereof, said planar surface on said appendage corresponding to said planar surface on said body, said appendages being configured in the shape of the head, tail, legs or wings of said animal;

means disposed on both said body and said at least one appendage for removably attaching said appendage to said body at said respective planar surfaces, said means comprising a pair of complementary magnetic elements, said complementary [magnet] magnetic elements being disposed within said planar surfaces of said body and said appendage, wherein said ridge serves to conceal the attachment of said appendages to said body and to limit the motion of said appendage attached to said body; and

means for limiting the rotational and linear movement of said appendage relative to said body, said means comprising a pair of complementary ribbed elements disposed on each of said planar surfaces, wherein said ribbed elements frictionally engage each other when said appendage is attached to said body, wherein said ribbed elements comprise a plurality of raised ribs disposed in a circular configuration about said magnetic elements.

Rewrite claim 16 as follows:

16. (AMENDED) The manipulative toy of claim 15, wherein said ribbed [element] elements disposed on said appendage [is] are beveled and raised above said planar surface on said appendage, and wherein said ribbed [element] elements disposed on said body [is] are beveled and recessed below said planar surface of said body such that said beveled ribbed elements are complementary to each other to thereby allow said [ribs] ribbed elements to frictionally engage each other when said appendage is attached to said body.

Rewrite claim 17 as follows:

17. (AMENDED) The manipulative toy of claim 15, wherein said body includes an outer surface and wherein said planar surface on said body is recessed below the outer surface of said body, said recess being bounded on the upper portion thereof by a ridge.

Cancel claim 18 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Rewrite claim 19 as follows:

19. (AMENDED) A method for inspiring imagination and creativity using manipulative toys formed in the shape of various animals, said method comprising the steps of:

providing at least two manipulative toys configured in the shape of an animal having a head, tail, arms, legs or wings, each comprising:

a body configured in the shape of an animal, said body having a front, back and sides and further having [at least one planar] a plurality of planar surfaces [surface]

disposed on the sides thereof [thereon], said planar surfaces being recessed below the surface of said body and bounded on the upper portion thereof by an arcuate ridge, wherein the location of said planar surfaces on the sides of said body corresponds to the location of the arms, legs or wings of said animal, and further including a planar surface at the front of said body, said planar surface corresponding in location to the head of said animal, and further including a planar surface at the back of said body, said planar surface corresponding in location to the tail of said animal;

a plurality of appendages each [at least one appendage] having at least one planar surface disposed at [the] an end thereof, said planar surface on said appendage corresponding to said planar surface on said body, said appendages being configured in the shape of the head, tail, legs or wings of said animal;

means disposed on both said body and said at least one appendage for removably attaching said appendage to said body at said respective planar surfaces, wherein said ridge serves to conceal the attachment of said appendages to said body and to limit the motion of said appendage attached to said body; and

means for limiting [the] rotational and linear movement of said appendage relative to said body; and

[removably attaching each of said] interchanging said appendages from said [associated body to said body of said toy for which said appendage is not associated] toys so as to create [a] one or more fanciful [creature] creatures.